

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. to 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A printer for printing on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, said printer being communicably connectable with an information processing apparatus through communication means from which one or more commands are received, said printer comprising:

analyzing means for analyzing the ~~signal~~ command received from ~~external means;~~

~~preparation means for executing preparation to be executed prior to printing action when a result of the information processing apparatus;~~

discriminating means for discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that signal is instructions of the preparation; the command is a notification of preparation before printing;

preparation means for effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head prior to the printing operation when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing and discrimination by said discriminating means indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary; and

printing means for executing, when ~~a result of~~ analysis by said analyzing means indicates that ~~signal~~ the command is print data, the printing process operation on the basis of the print data.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A printer according to Claim 4, wherein the ~~signal command~~ is an interface signal exchanged with the ~~external means~~ information processing apparatus.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A printer according to Claim ~~7~~4, wherein said preparation means effects suction recovery of said ~~ink-jet~~ printing head.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A printing system ~~including~~ comprising a printer for printing on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, an information processing apparatus, and ~~an external printer which are communicably connected through communicating means,~~ communication means for communicably connecting said printer and said information processing apparatus, said printing system further comprising:

notifying means for ~~effecting pre-print notification to~~ sending a command
for notifying said external printer of a preparation before printing through said
communicating means ~~when execution of printing is instructed~~;

generating means for processing, after the ~~pre-print~~ preparation before
printing notification of said notifying means, data to be printed to generate print data;

~~_____ sending means for sending the print data generated by said generating~~
~~means to said external printer through said communicating means, said external printer~~
~~including:~~

~~_____ preparation means for executing, in response to pre-print notification~~
~~provided by said communicating means, preparation to be executed prior to printing action;~~
and

~~_____ printing means for executing printing process on the basis of print data sent~~
~~by said sending means:~~

wherein said printer includes:

analyzing means for analyzing the command received from the information
processing apparatus;

discriminating means for discriminating whether a cleaning operation is
necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that
the command is a notification of preparation before printing;

preparation means for effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head
prior to the printing operation when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the

command is a notification of preparation before printing and discrimination by said discriminating means indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary; and printing means for executing, when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is print data, the printing operation on the basis of the print data.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A printing method for printing by a printer on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, said printer being communicably connectable with an information processing apparatus through communication means from which one or more commands are received, said method comprising:

an analyzing step of analyzing ~~a signal~~ the command received from outside the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step of discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of a preparation before printing;

a preparation step of ~~executing preparation to be executed prior to printing when the signal is indicative of instructions of preparation effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head prior to the printing as a result of operation when~~ analysis of said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing

and discrimination by said discriminating means indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary; and

a printing step of ~~execution printing process~~ executing, when analysis of said analyzing step indicates that the command is print data, the printing operation on the basis of the print data when the signal is indicative of print data.

13. (Currently Amended) A control method for a printing system ~~including a comprising a printer for printing on a recording material using a printing head which ejects ink, an information processing apparatus and an external printer connectable with each other for communication through, and communicating means for communicably connecting said printer and said information processing apparatus, said method~~ comprising:-

a notification step of sending a command for notifying said external printer of pre-print notification a preparation before printing through said communicating means when execution of printing is instructed;

an analyzing step for analyzing the command received from the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step for discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation, when analysis by said analyzing step indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing;

a preparation step of ~~executing preparation to be executed prior to printing~~
~~in said external printer in accordance with the pre-print~~ for effecting the cleaning operation
for the printing head prior to the printing operation when analysis by said analyzing step
indicates that the command is a notification of said notification step; preparation before
printing and discrimination by said discriminating step indicates that the cleaning operation
is necessary;

a generating step of processing, after the ~~pre-print~~ notification of said
notifying step, data to be printed;

a sending step of sending the print data generated by said generating step to
said ~~external~~ printer through said communicating means; and

a printing step of executing the printing process operation in accordance
with print data sent by said sending step.

14. (Currently Amended) A memory medium for storing a control program
for ~~operating a computer of a printer which prints on a recording material using a printing~~
head which ejects ink, said printer communicating with an information processing
apparatus ~~connected through communicating means with an external printer communicably~~
connecting said printer and said information processing apparatus, wherein said control
program ~~comprising~~ comprises:

a code of a notification process of sending a command for notifying said
~~external printer of pre-print notification~~ a preparation before printing through said
communicating means ~~when execution of printing is instructed;~~

a code of a generating process of processing, after the ~~pre-print~~ notification of said ~~notifying~~ notification process, data to be printed to generate print data; and

a code of a sending process of sending the print data generated by said generating process to said ~~external~~ printer through said communicating means.